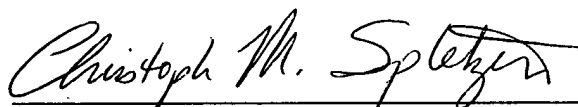


**Remarks/Arguments:**

Applicants acknowledge the allowability of claims 1-8 and 10-21. Rejected claim 22 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Thus, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney for Applicants

RPS/CMS/lcf

Dated: December 5, 2003

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to:  
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

December 5, 2003

